

August 22, 2016

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EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

I've been wondering what it will take to accomplish the EPA plan to remove hazardous chemicals from the Willamette River. In my opinion, it's probably the folks managing who really don't have a sense of how things will get done. The overall plan just seems foolish and could be a real serious boondoggle. This doesn't include how turning the riverfront into a construction site will cause a commotion and disrupt business and life in downtown Portland. While we waste a tremendous amount of money, dredging the river will accomplish very little.

If Mother Nature is cleaning it up, we need to let her handle the project and stay out of it as much as we can. The area seems to be doing okay with the small amount of contaminants that are there. The natural restoration process will probably help the river take care of itself the rest of the way. But, I'm guessing there are a lot of politics involved if alternative, less invasive plans are not being considered.

I'm still working because we still have taxes to pay, although I shouldn't be at my age. Having to pay more to cover the excessive price tag for this project will make having a decent lifestyle more difficult. For one, it would put me out of business if areas of Portland's downtown district are off limits for a certain period of time. Limiting access in certain areas will definitely have an impact and would be devastating for anyone who has to be in that area. I hope the EPA takes a step back and works to find a more agreeable solution.

Sincerely,

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Portland, OR 97220